

❖ 1895. ❖

DR. GAYLOR'S
TWENTY-SECOND
ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE


Ripley Urban District Council,

From January 1st, 1895, to 31st December, 1895.

RIPLEY :

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TO THE

Ripley Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

The time has again arrived, when, by the terms of my appointment as your Medical Officer of Health, under the Public Health Act, it is my duty to submit to you an account of the work done during the year 1895, and also to take a general survey of the condition of the District generally.

This will be my twenty-second Annual Report, dealing with the vital statistics of the Ripley District.

Since my last Report for 1894 your District has been considerably enlarged, and as a consequence is more important.

On the First of January, 1895, there was added to the original Urban District an area of 2815 acres, with a census population of 1959, and which was estimated by me to have increased since the census of 1891 to a total of 2221. The Council are aware that the localities brought within, and added to, the old District formed the "Rural" portions of the Parish of Ripley, and were under the jurisdiction of the Belper Rural Authority, and formed a portion of my District as one of their Medical Officers of Health. This was evidently an advantage, because your own Medical Officer was perfectly familiar with the whole sanitary history of those places.

Your District now comprises the following well known places :—Ripley, Marehay, Waingroves, Street Lane, Upper Hartshay, Lower Hartshay, and Butterley Park. All the latter six localities have been added on to the first on the list, viz., Ripley. In another way of putting it, we find that on the 31st day of December, 1894, you had Sanitary government over an area of 1211 acres, with a population of 7276 persons ; whereas on the 31st day of December, 1895, your area has become 4026 acres, with a population estimated at 9650 persons.

It is admitted on all hands that the County Council did a wise thing when they placed the whole of the Parish under one District Council.

We shall see, as we go on, that the year 1895 has been a very remarkable one, apart from its extended area, and yet withal we shall at the end of this Report admit that it, after all, is not of a very unfavourable character.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACT.

In order that we may have a complete record of the whole of the District for the last 22 years, I propose to embody in all the statistics I produce the inclusion of the whole area, as it has been as inclusive as it is at this moment during the whole of that period. I have all the facts relating to the past history of the recently added localities, and I think it will be far preferable than to make this year, 1895, the first of the new District. Another reason is, that I should be giving the mean averages of Ripley itself for 21 years. and then adding on to that the first year of the new portion of the District. It is only by comparing the death rates for a series of years (and, of course, other matters as well), that a proper judgment can be arrived at as to the general Sanitary condition of a District.

You adopted the Notification Act in July, 1892, and, therefore, I start from there with the whole area as it is now. I find the numbers notified to be as follows:—

	1892	11	
Scarlet Fever	1893	41	Epidemic at Marehay and Street Lane.
Typhoid Fever	1894	25	Epidemic at Marehay.
Small Pox	1895	47	Epidemic at Ripley.
Total		124	

So this shows that during four years of the Notification Act there have been three years of epidemics of Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, and Small Pox, with 124 notifications, the largest number being for the year 1895, caused by the Small Pox epidemic at Ripley. The following are the diseases notified in 1895 for the whole District:—

Small Pox	-	-	-	25
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	12
Erysipelas	-	-	-	6
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	2
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	1
Membranous Croup	-	-	-	1
Total				47

Of this number there were 4 deaths, or about $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the cases notified.

Small Pox	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	1
Membranous Croup	-	-	-	1
Total				4

I propose to deal with Small Pox epidemic later on in a special report.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were, as previously stated, 12 cases of this disease, but only this one death, which occurred in Station Road. It was a child 3 years of age. There were no exceptional circumstances present, but the fatal end came after about nine days' illness. Another case occurred in this locality, a child 10 months old, who soon got better. There had been no case of Scarlet Fever in this neighbourhood since the October Fair in 1894. These occurred in January, 1895, and the inhabitants considered there had been mild cases unnoticed ever since, but I'm not able to speak upon that.

A case on the Derby Road, in May, a young girl 16 years of age was dealt with by the Council at the time. The surroundings were of a very bad description—privies full, ashpits full and contents all over the yard close to the back doors, and things generally in bad state. The girl recovered. Two other cases occurred in Chapel Street. A child 7 years of age passed through the disease without it being discovered what it was. No doctor was called in. The other case, 14 years of age, had it also very mildly, and soon got better. Sanitary matters here were very unsatisfactory—privies and ashpits close to the door, ashpits open, stinking contents of every imaginable kind exposed to sun and rain, the contents undergoing putrefaction and emitting noxious odours. Two cases in Greaves Street were that of a little girl 4 years, and a boy 6 years of age. They had only been at Ripley about a couple of days before the rash showed itself, and as they had come from Birmingham to the Fair, the history of the case was complete. Both made good recovery. Two other cases occurred at Lowe's Hill. A boy 11 and girl 7 years of age had the disease in the very mildest possible form, and did very well. The other cases of Scarlet Fever call for no remarks. They were very mild, and had no insanitary surroundings.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Only one case of this disease occurred during the year, at Station Road, a man aged 39 years. The premises were in a satisfactory condition. He was a collier, and may have drank some impure water down the pit, as is sometimes done. The case terminated fatally in about three weeks. Every possible precaution was taken.

MEMBRANOUS GROUP.

This is a notifiable disease, and is very closely allied to Diphtheria, and equally dangerous. In this case, a child 4 years of age died after three days' illness. He had been poorly, and then went to school, where he was thought to have taken cold. This case occurred at the Hillocks.

MEASLES.

There were in all 7 cases of this disease, as follows:—Malthouse Yard 1, Peas Hill 3, Marchay 3. One death occurred at each place.

Only three houses were attacked, and no history could be made out. There is not much to be done with this disease, unless you can isolate the very *first case*, and this isn't easy—because the patient is infectious before anybody can discover it—except it be to notice and observe languor, loss of appetite, and a desire for *rest*, and these symptoms may, of course, be seen without Measles being existent.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Only two cases of this disease came under notice. Both were attended in confinement by respectable Midwives, but not by the same person in both cases. One occurred in February, the other in April, and both made a good recovery under medical treatment. There was nothing insanitary in either case, and each had clean dwellings and surroundings.

DIARRHŒA.

There were eight cases of this disease, all of which proved fatal. This not being a notifiable disease, any more than Measles, I can't tell how many cases there may have been. They were as follows:—

Male,	3 months.	
Female,	1	„
„	2	„
„	7	„
„	2	„
„	2	„
„	1	„
„	6	„

The majority of these cases were weakly children at birth; some were nursed from the breast, others breast and bottle, and some bottle and “same as we eat.” I'm obliged to put them in the Zymotic class, but sanitation had very little power over any of them.

INFLUENZA.

This disease is put here, though it does not strictly belong to this class. Since its epidemic year it has never entirely left us, and four deaths were caused by it in the first half of the year 1895.

Male, 53 years, Alfred Street.

Male, 17 years, Peas Hill.

Male, 73 years, Street Lane.

Female, 9 years, High Street.

PHTHISIS.

This disease caused 11 deaths, 5 of whom were under 5 years and 6 above that age. There are certain forms or variety of this disease of a preventible character, and are now largely looked upon as infectious or contagious. It is every day becoming more and more recognised as within the province of the sanitarian, and nothing can be more certain than the fact that dampness of soil, re-breathed air, the result of defective ventilation, meat or milk from a tuberculous animal, are some of the chief causes of its production, outside and beyond certain hereditary

transmission. Plenty of cubic space, pure air, bright sunshine, proper clothing, free ventilation, and a partial isolation, are admitted to be the proper mode of management in this dire disease. Many great authorities are already advocating it to be made a notifiable disease; but this would produce a social revolution if acted upon before the public were educated up to the modern estimate of its etiology. A disease which caused about one-twelfth of the deaths in this country is well worth the study of its preventible character.

Dr. Buchanan, of the Local Government Board, many years ago proved that the disease flourished where there was damp atmosphere and a saturated soil, and it is found that the disease is very common on clayey soils, and comparatively exempt on the sandstone.

Let the sputa from the sufferer be always burnt, so that it may not become dried and float about in the atmosphere. Don't be afraid of open doors and windows, and never stop up the chimney in the sleeping room. Be properly clad according to the seasons, and live in the open air. These are some of the measures which have been indicated.

BRONCHITIS.

This disease is responsible for no less than 33 deaths during the year, 18 of these being those of children under 5 years of age. This large mortality points to exposure to cold, with ill adapted clothing added to it, especially in the case of those of tender age.

INQUEST CASES.

The following were the verdicts of Coroners' Juries during the year :—

- Male, 68 years, accidental fall from a ladder.
- Male, 65 years, suicide by drowning.
- Male, 17 years, killed in coal-pit.
- Male, 64 years, suicide by drowning.
- Male, 59 years, run over by an engine.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

There were 13 deaths which were returned as uncertified, that is to say, they had no medical attendance.

- Female, 3 months, convulsions.
- Female, 40 years, effects of alcohol.
- Male, 75 years, heart disease.
- Female, 4 months, lung disease.
- Female, 5 hours, premature birth.
- Male, 2 days, convulsions.
- Female, 6 months, convulsions.
- Female, 2 hours, premature birth.
- Male, 6 hours, premature birth.
- Male, 8 hours, premature birth.
- Male, 14 days, convulsions.
- Male, 5 months, convulsions.
- Female, 18 hours, premature birth.

The above diseases are the so-called "presumed" causes, based upon

the supposed knowledge of those around them, and symptoms and other matters explained to the Registrar's satisfaction to enable him to form some near idea as to the cause of death. The uncertified death rate in Ripley is thus equal to 1.45 per 1000, or about $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole.

SMALL POX.

The details of this terrible scourge have been so recently in the minds of us all that it will not be necessary here to go into every minute particular relating to the epidemic. At the same time I think an important outbreak of Small Pox, in the year 1895, in such a District as yours, is entitled to a prominent place in the Health Officer's Report, even as a record.

The disease had its origin at a common lodging-house in almost the centre of the town. The Medical Officer of Health at Derby had admitted into the Small Pox Hospital there, on the 22nd of May, a man who had slept at this lodging-house in your District from May 16th to May 21st, and before the first date named had worked at Golden Valley. At Ripley he had slept in a room with another man, in Bedroom No. 1, which contained three other beds. Looking at the incubative period of the disease, it was perfectly certain this man had Small Pox on him while he lived at the lodging house, and I at once decided to burn the bed and bedding which he had slept in at this house. The house was fumigated and closed for a certain period, and the dirty and filthy accumulations in the locality removed, and disinfectants freely used.

This case was followed by another, that of a child six months old, at another lodging-house, and this case was directly traced as having its origin at Derby. The child got better. This part of the lodging-house was also closed, and several nuisances attended to.

The next case occurred to a child on Nottingham Road, aged 4 years, who went to Infants' School. This necessitated closing the schools for three or four weeks, and at this juncture the managers of the various Sabbath-schools willingly agreed to close them also.

At this period the wife of the lodging-house-keeper, where the man who caused the whole epidemic slept, began with the disease, and, as time went on, two of the sons also; then followed two more of the children on Nottingham Road, aged 5 and 2 years respectively.

The next case was that of a married woman, 29 years of age, at Laburnham Farm, not far away from Ripley Market Place. She traced her disease to the fact that one of the boys from the lodging-house came to this house for milk.

We now come to Crossley Street, the victim being a young man 20 years of age. He had not been out of the district for 14 or 15 days. This locality was in an exceedingly filthy state about the back premises. It is a long new street, thickly inhabited, and the whole place was disgusting solely for want of scavenging. This state of matters has happily been altered since.

The epidemic then travelled down to the Old Station Road, where

it attacked a young man 20 years of age. He was a collier, and had not been away from home.

We come back again now to the lodging-house locality No. 2, where there are private houses on one side of the yard. Here a woman 20 years of age was attacked with the disease in a mild form. She was also pregnant, and very far advanced.

NOTE.—This woman I delivered of a living child (whilst she had the Small Pox), with the assistance directly after of Mr. Garnham and Nurse Martin, who will be better known later on. This child, born under such circumstances, never took the disease, though, of course, it was kept by the side of its mother. Of course no breast milk was allowed. The woman made a good recovery.

The next case was that of a man 40 years of age, near the Market Place; followed by a man lodging at a private house in the same yard as the lodging-house No. 1, where the disease originated. He was 25 years of age. He had only been in Ripley a day or two, and had come from Sutton-in-Ashfield. Though there was no Small Pox there, he certainly had contracted the disease elsewhere than Ripley, as he had the characteristic eruption on the third day of his arrival.

We come now to a case at Waingroves, a man 27 years of age; and this was followed by three cases near the Old Station, viz.:—man, 36 years, collier; innkeeper, 28 years; and a little girl 5 years of age.

We now come to a woman 35 years of age, from another part of of the town, but there is reason to suppose that she visited one of the Small Pox houses, by calling at the door to enquire about her sister who had the disease. This poor woman was far advanced in pregnancy, and also kept back the knowledge of the disease, and without nurse or doctor till too late a period, as she had the disease in its most severe form, in addition to her condition, which I've explained above. I regret to say, she died of Small Pox, the only fatal case of the whole 25.

The next is also a married woman, 32 years of age, who certainly caught the disease by looking after one of the cases previously mentioned. A very mild case next occurred in a child 5 years old, in Chapel Street. Then came another case, a married woman from the neighbourhood of the Old Station, 35 years of age; and a girl, 11 years of age, from the same locality.

The next case was a man 69 years of age, a contractor and farmer, living at Laburnham Farm. In all probability he caught the disease through living at his daughter's (the poor woman who died) and through her going to make enquiries about a second daughter who had the disease at the farm already mentioned. His was a very mild case, and he did well.

Then came two of the last cases, wives of two of the Small Pox patients, one at Waingroves, the other at an inn down Old Station Road. Both were very mild cases indeed, but I advised the innkeeper's wife to keep herself in quarantine a short time, and get somebody to serve her customers in her stead.

The above shows a total of Small Pox cases of 25. These I classify as follows, the result of my own most careful observation :—

VACCINATED IN INFANCY, showing good marks, 7. These had the disease in its very mildest form, known in the profession as Varioloid cases.

UNVACCINATED CASES, 6. All had the disease in what is known as Confluent form.

INDISTINCT MARKS (one hardly visible at all), 12.

The last 18 cases had the disease in its very worst form—all the severe symptoms belonging to this foul disease were present in every case, though more pronounced in some—blindness, delirium, swelling of head and face, so as to completely hide all the features. But, fortunately, as before said, only one death occurred.

This Report on Small Pox would be very incomplete without referring to our management of the above cases, and the measures taken to check its ravages and prevent its spread.

The first thing to be done was isolation ; and then commenced the very greatest difficulty—it always is so everywhere and on every occasion till the District Council have acquired a place of their own. After many Council meetings and no little anxiety, a townsman was found who had a fairly good site for the purpose of erecting a Tent Hospital, and eventually negotiations were completed and the Tents were erected. Then came another source of trouble in the shape of a deputation from residents in the neighbourhood where the Tents were erected. Though, of course, it would have been perhaps better if a site could have been obtained a mile or so further away, but the deputation were assured by your Chairman and your Medical Officer of Health that there was no particular or special danger in their proximity to the Tents ; and this was very fortunately borne out up to the end of the epidemic, for not a single case of Small Pox occurred in the immediate vicinity of the Tents. Of course every possible precaution was taken and disinfectants were freely used.

We were fortunate in securing an exceptionally efficient Nurse, who had been trained in an Infectious Hospital, was very willing, fond of her work, strong and healthy, good tempered, with just a sufficient amount of authority to produce the respect, esteem, and thankfulness of her patients, who ultimately exhibited its reality in the form of a testimonial.

The Hospital Attendant deserves his share of praise. He had a good deal to do in the early days of the epidemic, and rendered me very great assistance. He proved the right man in the right place, and the Council were lucky to secure such a man, who was already protected from the disease by a previous attack.

I did not deem it necessary to remove every case of the disease into the Hospital Tents : sometimes on account of the extreme mildness of the case, and a desire to leave some empty beds for an emergency, and

sometimes because I saw the patients had, and could have, the comforts of home, with good nursing. The Hospital Tents acted remarkably well at the time of the year we had them. Patients expressed themselves as being most comfortable. It never once rained in the Tents from the top; it, of course blew in when the side curtains were undone to admit plenty of fresh air. We had several heavy storms, but only one very severe storm with a gale and rain blew down the short curtain poles one night. Fortunately the inmates were sufficiently convalescent to re-place them again. This would not have occurred, only the grip for the drainage round the Tent was dug out after the poles were fixed, whereas it should have been dug out first, and then it wouldn't have weakened the poles in the ground. When the patients were convalescent they played cricket in the field, held concerts, read all sorts of literature kindly provided by some of the inhabitants of Ripley; and those who could smoke I begged money for tobacco for them, and one or two friends sent them packets for their smoking. Altogether the monotony of their boycotted condition was relieved in every way possible. Several ladies brought and sent supplies of flowers, and the Tents were never without the gaiety produced by flowers. I attended the Tents every day nearly for over three months, and did everything to make matters go smoothly, and for the benefit of the sufferers; and though I am aware the Small Pox epidemic was costly to the District, yet at the same time I can't help congratulating the Council and the District for being rewarded as they were, by the epidemic ceasing as it did. I can bear testimony to the efficacy of Small Pox treatment under canvass, especially in the summer months. If the Tents could be safely warmed in winter, nothing would be better for patients and for curtailing the disease, and (not the least) on account of its economy. Of course, besides isolation of the patients in the Hospital Tent, re-vaccination was resorted to in many instances. The Belper Guardians issued their order, which, together with an invitation as Medical Officer of Health from myself, was placarded about the District. I re-vaccinated the Inspector, my household, myself, and my cab-driver. Nurse had already been operated upon, and didn't require it. It is a pity that vaccination in infancy, and re-vaccination in adult life, is not made thoroughly compulsory. We should then stamp out Small Pox altogether at a cost of somewhere about five shillings per head.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

I regret to find that your infantile death rate has increased this year. There have been 370 births registered during the year, and if we take the proportion of deaths under 1 year of age during 1895, we find your infantile death rate is as high as 151 per 1000. This shows that about one child in every six born in the District dies before it reaches the first year of its existence: in fact, 56 children died during the year with a mean age of not quite four months. I don't say that all those deaths are the result of insanitary conditions, but the rate of infant mortality is a very important factor in the health of a district and its sanitary arrangements. There can be, no doubt, various causes assigned—very early marriages, parental neglect, too much of the feeding bottle

and too little of the breast, deficient clothing, exposure to cold, dirty houses and want of ventilation—all these things go to sap and destroy the budding life, most of which could be dealt with by some of the Women's Social Movements Societies, better than by Sanitarians. We can do something to get rid of the filth outside, and in very special cases with dirt inside; but the habits of a certain class of women can only be discovered and removed by certain of the same sex in their visits, mothers' meetings, visiting societies, &c.

The rate this year is certainly higher than it ought to be in such a District as yours—it is equal to the rate for England and Wales, which includes all the slums, courts, alleys, &c., of our large towns, where dirt is king and filth reigns supreme.

The difference between infant mortality among the rich and the poor is not so much a question of wealth as of knowledge, management, regulations, &c. So many people give their children solid food, same as adults, before nature has supplied them with teeth, and this soon brings a train of mischief in its track, and the poor babe is starved with its quantum of improper food. And this it is which swells your total rate of mortality. For instance, your death rate from all causes for the year 1895 is 16·37 per 1000, and this is partly made up by the above infant death rate of 5·8 per 1000.

The total number of deaths from all causes is 158. Male deaths 74, female deaths 84. Out of this number, as before said, the number of children under 1 year of age who died is 56; and if we go as far as the deaths under 5 years of age we find there were (including those under 1 year), no less than 75 deaths which occurred before the children reached the age of 5 years. Now this is equal to over 47 per cent. of the whole of the deaths in your District during the year. These 75 children only lived an average age of about 11 months. On the other hand, there were 33 persons lived an average life of 74 years. Now this is equal to a death rate of 3·41 per 1000, or 20 per cent. of the whole. You see there were 50 other persons who died between the age of 5 years and 65. These were equal to 5·16 per 1000, or nearly 32 per cent. The deaths occurred in the following quarters of the year:—

March Quarter	-	-	54
June Quarter	-	-	36
September Quarter	-	-	36
December Quarter	-	-	32
			—158

The deaths were registered for the following parts of the District:—

Butterley Park	-	-	2
Lower Hartshay	-	-	1
Ripley	-	-	133
Street Lane	-	-	4
Marehay	-	-	12
Waingroves	-	-	4
Upper Hartshay	-	-	2
			—158

The deaths at certain age periods, according to Table A of the Local Government Board, is as below :—

Under 1 year	-	-	-	56
1 year, and under 5 years	-	-	-	19
5	15	-	-	8
15	25	-	-	5
25	65	-	-	37
65 years and upwards	-	-	-	33

—158

The eldest male was 80 years of age. The eldest female was 88 years of age.

The mean age at death of the 83 persons who survived the dangers of infancy, and who lived over 5 years was 46. The mean age at death of the whole 158 persons was 23 years.

THE CAUSES OF DEATH WERE AS FOLLOWS :—

Diseases.	Under five years of age	Over five years of age	Total.
Small Pox		1	1
Scarlet Fever	1		1
Membranous Croup.....	1		1
Typhoid Fever.....		1	1
Measles	3		3
Diarrhoea.....	8		8
Cancer		2	2
Tubercular Diseases	7	6	13
Influenza		4	4
Brain Diseases	1	2	3
Apoplexy.....		4	4
Paralysis		3	3
Convulsions.....	7		7
Bronchitis	18	15	33
Heart Disease.....		7	7
Liver Disease	1	3	4
Stomach Disease.....		1	1
Bowel Disease.....		2	2
Kidney Disease		1	1
Diabetes		1	1
Old Age		14	14
Debility	13	5	18
Teething	1		1
Child Birth		3	3
Premature Birth.....	3		3
Uncertified	11	3	14
Inquests		5	5
Totals	75	83	158

Total death rate from all causes for the year 1895, 16·37 per 1000.
Mean death rate for 23 years, 14·90 per 1000.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1895.

Deaths under 1 year of age	56	5 8	per 1000, or 35	per cent.
1 year, and under 5 years	75	7·77	„	47 „
5 „ 15	8	·82	„	5 „
15 „ 25	5	·51	„	3 „
25 „ 65	37	3·83	„	23 „
65 years, and upwards	33	3·41	„	20 „
Zymotic Diseases	14	1·45	„	8 „
Phthisis	11	1·13	„	6 „
Bronchitis	33	3·41	„	20 „
Inquest Cases	5	·51	„	3 „
Uncertified	14	1·45	„	8 „
Male Deaths	74	7·66	„	46 „
Female Deaths	84	8·7	„	53 „

Total Deaths, 158.

Death rate from all causes for 1895, 16·37 per 1000.

BIRTHS

165 boys and 205 girls were born during the year, making a total of 370, which is a natural increase of the population of 212 persons. The births were registered in the following quarters of the year :—

March Quarter	-	-	96
June Quarter	-	-	95
September Quarter	-	-	106
December Quarter	-	-	73
Total	-	-	370

The male birth rate is 17·09 per 1000. The female birth rate is 21·24 per 1000. The total birth rate for the year 1895 is 38·34 per 1000, which must be looked upon as a high birth rate.

GENERAL INSPECTION.

During the year 1895 I think I have visited all parts of the District and dealt with ordinary nuisances without giving the Council any trouble. In many cases you have had my usual monthly reports on the more important matters. It is astonishing how very soon new and fresh nuisances spring up in some neighbourhoods when you have succeeded in getting rid of those of old standing. The habits of some householders require looking after and correcting regularly. The Council know of certain localities that insist upon keeping up their reputation for dirt, and it is impossible to make them clean and sanitary : consequently, they receive frequent visits from your Officers, who do the best they can under very trying circumstances. Large families in small pent-up cottages are accountable for a great deal of sickness, produced by dirty habits, and it is difficult to alter matters when they would not know where to go to

be in proximity to their labour, so we go on as best we can with advice, &c. Every year brings with it its own work, and though large numbers of small nuisances get dealt with regularly, the work and the duties connected with it get no less.

SCAVENGING.

I am very glad to congratulate the Council on their new arrangements for removal of accumulations, ashpits, &c. It has been a troublesome business for years, and I hope now we shall see an improvement all round. I hope in all new structures the Council will not allow plans to pass that show LARGE ashpits: it is much better for them to hold only small quantities, so that they require frequent removal of their contents. The same applies to privies, where earth closets can't be used. Insist upon them being properly constructed, made water-tight, and not sunk below the ground level, and so as to require frequent removal of the contents, as in the ashpits.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is another question which has made a great advance during the past year. The inquiry held by Major Crozier upon the subject was a very important one. An addition of 80,000 gallons of water per day will be very acceptable; and though the water is not quite so good as one would like it to be, it will be materially improved by filtration. When the Ripley Town gets its supply it will be necessary to supplement the other portions of the District, especially Marehay, which is a rapidly rising portion of the new District.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This important matter may now be looked upon as half accomplished, now that the Council have joined the Belper combination, and it is to be hoped that the building will be commenced at once.

VARIOUS.

The common lodging-houses are in a very good condition.

The 21 cow-sheds are visited at intervals, and are fairly kept.

The 15 slaughter-houses are in as fair a condition as is possible though I have complaints about them from time to time, but I don't see how a real remedy can be applied, seeing that they are distributed in all parts of the town.

There are 11 bakehouses, all in a fairly good condition.

Some 150 ordinary nuisances have been dealt with during the past year.

The 692 common privies which exist get better attended to now that the scavenging is done by the Council through the contractors.

THE MARKET.

The food supplies now brought into the market are of much better quality than used to be the case, and the occasional visits of your Officers

has effected much good and acted as a deterrent to some well-known retailers of food. There has been one meat seizure during the past year, being parts of a carcase of beef. The butcher was summoned and a conviction obtained.

My Annual Report for 1895 is now complete. It has been a very eventful year, entailing extra duties upon us all. We hope not to have any such epidemic again, though we may very well congratulate ourselves upon the way in which it was dealt with and finally overcome. With a permanent Hospital we shall be able to deal promptly with the first cases of disease, and so strangle it before it reaches an epidemic form. In conclusion, I desire to thank the Council for their kind recognition of my extra work during the Small Pox outbreak, and I acknowledge the ready assistance they give me at all times, so that my work is performed smoothly and with as little friction as possible; and I hope the confidence which you place in me, as your Officer of Health, may always be deservedly maintained.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD GAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.